

**A CRYPTOGRAPHIC SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority of PCT Application Entitled A
CRYPTOGRAPHIC SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS,
International Application No. PCT/US99/09938, filed May 5, 1999, which claims priority
of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/084,257 filed on May 5, 1998.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a cryptographic system and method for
secure electronic transactions, and more particularly to an electronic card, which takes the
form of a "smart card" and/or its equivalent software.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The generic term, "smart card," generally denotes an integrated circuit (IC) card,
that is, a credit-card-size piece of plastic with an embedded microchip. The IC chip on a
smart card generally, but not necessarily, consists of a microprocessor (the CPU), read-
only memory (ROM), random access memory (RAM), an input/output unit, and some
persistent memory such as electrically erasable programmable read-only memory
(EEPROM). The chip can perform arithmetic computations, logic processing, data
management, and data communication.

Smart cards are mainly of two types: contact and contact-less. The International
Standard Organization (ISO) has established specifications for such electronic cards under
the ISO series. In particular, ISO 7816 applies to integrated circuit(s) cards. Because of
its computing capability, a smart card can support a multitude of security features such as
authentication, secured read/write, symmetric key and asymmetric key
encryption/decryption. These smart card security features make it well suited for
electronic commerce where data security and authenticity are of primary importance.

1 Smart card use has found application in many specialized fields such as mass
transportation, health insurance, parking, campus, gas, etc. And its potential use in
electronic commerce and other financial areas are gaining popularity at a rapid pace. U.S.
5 Pat. No. 5,521,362, issued to Robert S. Power on May 28, 1996, entitled "Electronic purse
card having multiple storage memories to prevent fraudulent usage and method
therefore," describes an electronic purse application. Power's invention demonstrates a
smart card's capability to be used as a secure financial instrument and not just as a storage
10 device.

As advances in technology push smart-card chip computing to higher speeds and
larger memory capacity, the concept of a "multi-application" smart card is increasingly
becoming economically and physically feasible. U.S. Pat. No. 5,530,232 issued to
15 Douglas C. Taylor on June 25, 1996, entitled "Multi-application data card," describes a
multi-application card, which is capable of substituting for a plurality of existing single-
application cards and satisfying both financial and non-financial requirements. The multi-
application card uses a conventional data link to connect between the smart card and the
remote service provider. Taylor's invention, the multi-application card, does not relate to
20 any kind of open network or cryptographic method.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,544,246 issued to Mandelbaum et al. on Aug. 5, 1996, entitled
"Smart card adapted for a plurality of service providers and for remote installation of same,"
25 describes a smart card, which allows different service providers to coexist on the same smart
card. Each service provider is considered a user of the smart card and is installed on the card
by the issuer/owner of the smart card. Each user is allowed to build a tree-like file structure
and protect it with a password file. Mandelbaum's invention depicts a smart card allows for
the creation and deletion of multiple applications. Mandelbaum's smart card controls the
30 access to each application by using an appropriate password file.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,671,279 issued to Taher Elgamal on September 23, 1997, entitled
"Electronic commerce using a secure courier system," describes a system for implementing
35 electronic commerce over a public network using public/private key cryptography. The
Elgamal patent did not mention the use of a smart card as a tool in conducting the electronic

1 commerce and the participants were authenticated through the use of digital certificates. The
secure courier system requires a secured channel such as a Secure Socket Layer (SSL)
between the trading parties over an open network such as the Internet.

5 U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,677, issued to Fox et al. on August 4, 1998, entitled "System and
method for secure electronic commerce transactions," describes a system and method having
a registration process followed by a transaction process. During the registration phase, each
participant of a transaction registers with a trusted credential-binding server by sending to the
server a registration packet. The server produces unique credentials based upon the request
10 received and sends them to the request originator. During the transaction phase, the
originator of the transaction requests, receives and verifies the credentials of all intended
recipients of the commerce document and/or instrument and encrypts the document and/or
instrument using the public key of the individual recipient. Thus, each receiving party can
15 decrypt and access the information intended only for him. Fox's patent describes a process
which reflects the theme of the so called "Secure Electronic Transaction" (SET) standard
which is an ongoing effort supported by several major financial and software companies to
establish a digital certificate and certificate authority based electronic commerce system.

20 U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,840 issued to Derek L. Davis on August 18, 1998, entitled
"Apparatus and method for providing secured communication," describes a semiconductor
device, which is capable of generating device-specific key pairs to be used in subsequent
message authentication and data communication. The semiconductor device uses
25 public/private key cryptography to ensure the authenticity of two communicating parties.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,534,857 issued to Simon G. Laing and Matthew P. Bowcock on July 9,
1996, entitled "Method and System for Secure, Decentralized Personalization of Smart
Cards," describes a method and apparatus for securely writing confidential data from an issuer
30 to a customer smart card at a remote location. A mutual session key for enciphering data
transfer between a secure terminal and a secure computer is generated by using a common
key stored in the secure computer and a retailer smart card.

35 It is clear from the inventions mentioned above that the architecture of a secure
electronic commerce system involves a public key infrastructure and digital certificate

1 authority associated with it.

On an open network, a secret key-based system is less flexible in terms of key distribution and key management, and is more subject to malicious attack. On the other hand, a public/private key-based system, with all its advantages over the secret key system, has its own daunting task of authenticating transaction parties to one another. The current invention presents another system and method, which replaces the need for certificate authorities and digital certificates. The current invention is a hybrid system for electronic transactions. The hybrid system uses public/private keys during the key exchange phase and uses a session key as a secret key during the transaction phase.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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In one aspect of the present invention, the system for electronic transactions comprises: an electronic card having a cryptographic service for encryption and decryption, a data area for storing cardholder information, and a data area for storing service provider information; a service provider member terminal responsive to activation of the electronic card; and a service provider terminal in communication with the service provider member terminal, the service provider terminal decrypting communication from the service provider member terminal and encrypting communication to the service provider member terminal, the service provider member terminal encrypting communication to the service provider terminal and decrypting communication from the service provider terminal.

In another aspect of the invention, the method of conducting an electronic transaction using an electronic card comprises formatting a key exchange request message at a member, sending the key exchange request message from the member to a service provider, generating a session key at the service provider, formatting a key exchange response message including the session key at the service provider, sending the key exchange response message from the service provider to the member and using the session key to conduct a transaction.

In yet another aspect of the invention, the method of conducting an electronic transaction using an electronic card comprises formatting a key exchange request message at a member, the key exchange request message has a member challenge for the service

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provider, sending the key exchange request message from the member to a service provider, generating a session key at the service provider, formatting a key exchange response message including the session key at the service provider, the key exchange response message has a response for the member challenge and a service provider challenge for the member and sending it to the member, formatting by the member a response for the service provider challenge and sending it to the service provider and using the session key to conduct a transaction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram showing the relationship among the components of a system according to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 shows the flow of the two transaction phases via a network.

Figure 3 is the diagrammatic representation of an EC.

Figure 4 shows the format of the service provider data area. Each service provider's information is allocated an entry in the table and is protected by access conditions.

Figure 5 shows how the digital signatures are used in an embodiment of the invention.

Figures 6A through 6Q shows the schematic flow chart of the cryptographic system and method used in an embodiment of the invention in order to conduct electronic transactions via an open telecommunication network, such as the Internet.

Figure 7 through Figure 11 depicts the final format and content of the combined request and response messages in the key exchange phase and the transaction phase.

Figure 12 shows a service provider conducting a transaction with participants that have been arranged in series.

Figure 13 shows a service provider transaction on a network with participants that have been arranged in a hierarchical organization scheme.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A preferred embodiment of the invention is a cryptographic system and method for electronic transactions by using an electronic card (EC) in the form of a smart card or equivalent software and communicating over a communications network.

The preferred embodiment of the invention uses an open network, such as the Internet.

1 Alternative embodiments of the invention may use other types of networks. An embodiment
of the invention may either use a physical smart card, or alternatively, a smart card, which is
implemented as computer software package and runs on a computing device such as a
5 personal computer (PC). Likewise, a merchant involved in a transaction may use a merchant
device, which is a point-of-sale terminal, or a device, which uses software on a host computer
to communicate with an EC and a service provider. When a smart card is used, a smart card
reader is also needed to allow the card to communicate with a host device, such as a network
10 ready merchant terminal, a PC, or any other electronic device, which is capable of supporting
smart card transactions.

15 In a public key and digital certificate based system, transaction participants exchange
public information through the use of digital certificates or other electronic credentials which
are issued and certified by a certificate authority (CA) or credential binding server. The
communication between the CA or the server and each participant of the transaction must be
secure. Random numbers and digital signatures are used to ensure the authenticity and
20 validity of the messages transmitted among the participants.

25 The cryptographic system and method of the preferred embodiment of the invention
also uses public/private key cryptography, but it works in a slightly different way. The
cryptographic system and method does not seek to create another kind of trust relationship as
the one that exists between holders of digital certificates and the certificate authorities. It
particularly targets large membership-based financial institutions such as a large credit card
company and all its cardholders, or a major bank and all its ATM cardholders as its potential
30 users. Non-financial institution can also use this cryptographic system and method to conduct
commercial or non-financial transactions over a network.

35 A service provider (SP) provides some service to its members. Financial institutions
are just one kind of service provider. A service provider can also be non-financial in nature.
Regardless whether a service provider is a financial institution or a non-financial institution,
essentially the same process occurs. The only difference between a transaction involving a
financial institution and a transaction involving a non-financial institution is that the
messages may include different data fields.

1 When an EC holder signs up with one of the service providers, the service provider
creates a dedicated entry on the EC. Each entry contains the account information for the
service provider, the SP's public key, access control information, and other related data. Each
5 EC can support a predetermined number (e.g. ten) of such entries and each such entry is a
representation of one service provider.

By using the public/private key cryptography, the key distribution process is much
simplified. The EC holder him/her/self or any trusted third party such as a bank branch or
even a post office can perform the task. The SP's public key is only used for the initial key
10 exchange between the SP and the cardholder. After the initial key exchange step, the SP
assigns a session key, which protects any further message exchange between the cardholder
and the SP or between the cardholders' themselves.

This hybrid system, which uses both public key/private key cryptography and secret
15 key cryptography (i.e., session key), is in contrast to other secret-key systems in that in the
hybrid system, the secret key (i.e., session key) is valid for a single session and is not
applicable to other sessions. A session has a determinate length of time. A session may
terminate based upon a time period or upon conditions being satisfied.

Where a merchant is involved in a transaction, the merchant goes through essentially
the same procedures as the EC holder to communicate with the SP. The merchant will first
perform a key exchange with the SP and receive a session key. The session key will be used
by the merchant for subsequent communication with the SP. The cardholder and the
25 merchant digitally sign each message going to the SP and the SP similarly signs the response
message going back to the cardholder and the merchant.

In the event that a transaction requires interactions with another certificate-based
system, the SP, after authenticating the cardholder and the merchant based on further
30 information exchange after the initial key exchange, can act as a surrogate-certificate for the
cardholder and the merchant. In the most extreme case, the SP performs solely this surrogate
function and becomes a gateway for the certificate-based system. This type of hierarchy is
highly desirable since it reduces the number of trust relationships needed to carry out a
35 transaction among multiple systems. In addition, it eliminates the users' need to carry

1 certificates.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is a cryptographic system and method for electronic transactions by using an electronic card (EC) in the form of a smart card or equivalent software and communicating over a communications network.

5 In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the network is an open network such as the Internet. In alternative embodiments of the invention, other open networks and/or closed networks may be used to establish communication between a service provider and its members. For example, a service provider may use its own proprietary financial network to
10 communicate with its members.

Any Internet protocol may be used for Internet connections. Example protocols, which can be used include TCP/IP, UDP, HTTP, and the like.

15 Communication may also be via a communications network transport service such as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) using traditional analog telephone service (a.k.a. Plain Old Telephone Service or POTS), or by using a digital communication service such as a T-1, E1 or DS-3 data circuit, Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Digital SubscriberLine (DSL) services, or even using a wireless service, and the like. When
20 implemented using such a service the invention may be implemented independent of a communications protocol (i.e. at an electrical interface layer).

25 Communication may also be via a local area network (LAN) or Wide Area Network (WAN) such as Ethernet, Token Ring, FDDI, ATM or the like. Example protocols, which can be used include TCP/IP, IPX, OSI, and the like.

Other communication links might include an optical connection, a wireless RF modem connection, a cellular modem connection, a satellite connection, etc.

30 The invention may be employed as long as a communication path can be established between a service provider and its members. The examples above are intended to illustrate several examples of the various communications environments in which the invention may be practiced. As is clear to one ordinarily skilled in the art, the invention is not limited to those environments detailed above.

35 The EC can take the form of a smart card device or a software package running on a

1 computer system such as a personal computer (PC). When the EC is implemented on a smart
card, it can be used on a network-ready computer system such as a PC to transact with
another member and/or a selected service provider. It will need a read/write interface device
to communicate with a computer system and some application software such as an Internet
5 browser to interface with the cardholder and the network. If the EC is a software package
loaded into a computer system, then no read/write interface is needed. The exemplary
embodiment of the invention is for the EC to act as an electronic wallet (or cyber wallet)
which functions similar to real wallet. A real wallet can carry credit cards, debit cards, ATM
10 cards, health provider cards, membership cards, cash, etc. An EC has the digital equivalent of
all the above-mentioned financial and non-financial instruments and enables conducting
secure transactions over the Internet.

15 A service provider member can be a merchant and/or an EC cardholder. A merchant is
a member who is paid by the service provider as a result of a transaction. A member can be
both a merchant and an EC cardholder. A merchant may engage in a transaction with other
cardholders, which results in the merchant being paid by the service provider. A merchant
may also be an EC cardholder and purchase supplies, for example, from a merchant supplier.

20 The cryptographic system may involve communication between a service provider and
any number of service provider members. Thus, communication can be between an EC and
an SP, between a merchant and an SP, between a first EC, a second EC, and an SP, between a
first merchant, a second merchant, and an SP, etc. An EC may communicate directly with a
25 service provider to inquire about an account balance for example. A merchant may
communicate with a service provider only on his own behalf and not on behalf of an EC
because, for example, the merchant wants to know his own account balance with the service
provider. Communication between the SP and its members may follow any permutation of
30 the SP and its members. The organization of the communication links between the SP and its
members may be serial and/or hierarchical. Communication between the SP and its members
may also be serial and/or via routers, which route the messages between the SP and its
members.

35 The cryptographic method is a two-phased key-exchange-transaction model. The first

1 phase is a key exchange phase. The second phase is the transaction phase. In the key
exchange phase, the members exchange keys with the service provider. The members send
their keys to the service provider and the service provider uses the keys to send a session key
5 to the members. The session key protects any further message exchange between the
cardholder and the SP or between the cardholders' themselves. In the transaction phase,
either the SP can direct the transaction or the cardholders themselves may conduct the
transaction.

10 Figure 1 is a block diagram showing the relationship among the components of a
system according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention involving a cardholder, a
merchant, and service provider.

15 An EC cardholder 20 can conduct a transaction over a network 50 and communicate
with a merchant either by using an EC read/write device 82 attached to an originating
computer 84 or by using EC equivalent software 92 running on an originating computer unit
90.

20 A merchant can conduct a transaction over a network by either using a network-ready
point-of-sale(s) (POS) terminal 40 or by using EC equivalent software running on a merchant
device 70 to conduct an electronic transaction with a selected service provider 60 via a
network 50 such as the Internet.

25 Once the access conditions to the card have been satisfied, the cardholder can perform
financial or non-financial transactions with other participants of the system through the
network 50. In Figure 1, there are three different scenarios in which a transaction over a
network can be conducted.

- 30 (1) In a POS transaction (Upper left side of figure 1), the cardholder 20 swipes/inserts an
EC through/into a merchant's EC reader/writer 30 at a merchant's premises. The EC
reader/writer is connected to a network-ready merchant POS terminal 40. The
network-ready merchant POS terminal 40 is a secure tamper-resistant programmable
device comprising an input means such as a keyboard, a display device, a processing
unit, and an EC read/write device 30 (an EC interface device). It is typically a small
35 computer unit such as a PC equipped with a communication link to an open network.

1 The POS terminal communicates to the SP via the network 50.

2 (2) (Right side of figure 1) A cardholder can conduct a transaction with other
3 participants of the system by inserting the EC 20 into a read/write device 82, which
4 is connected to the cardholder's personal computer 84 which is the originating
5 computer. The originating computer connects to a network 50 allowing the EC to
6 communicate with the merchant computer unit 70. The merchant computer unit 70
7 has EC equivalent software 72 that enables the merchant to receive the EC generated
8 message and generates a message combining EC information and merchant
9 information. Then, the combined message is sent to the SP over a network.
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11 (3) (Bottom side of figure 1) A cardholder can conduct a transaction with other
12 participants of the system by using EC equivalent software 92 on the customer
13 cardholder's personal computer 90. The transaction begins at the originating
14 computer unit 90, that is, the cardholder's personal computer. The cardholder
15 conducts the transaction over a network 50 and communicates with the merchant's
16 computer unit 70, which in turn communicates with the SP 60 over a network 50.

17 While in the preferred embodiment of the invention, a personal computer is used to hold
18 the EC equivalent software, in alternative embodiments of the invention other electronic
19 devices can be used to hold the EC equivalent software.
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21 In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the network used to enable the EC to
22 communicate with the merchant is the same network used to enable the merchant to
23 communicate with the SP. In another embodiment, the network used to enable the EC to
24 communicate with the merchant may not be the same network used to enable the merchant to
25 communicate with the SP. In yet another embodiment, the network used to enable one
26 merchant to communicate with the SP may not be the same as the network used to enable
27 another merchant to communicate with the SP. In still yet another embodiment, the network
28 used to enable an EC to communicate to the merchant may not be the same as the network
29 used to enable another EC to communicate with another merchant. An embodiment may
30 consist of a multiplicity of networks whereby different parties communicate.
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32 In the preferred embodiment of the invention, a transaction is broken down into two
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1 phases: a key exchange phase and a transaction phase. Figure 2 is a specific case, which
 illustrates the two-phase key-exchange-transaction model where the SP directs the transaction
 phase. There is no direct exchange of sensitive information between participants when the SP
 directs the transaction.

5 The key exchange phase is the same where the transaction phase is among the
 cardholders themselves and where the SP directs the transaction phase. Where the transaction
 phase is among the cardholders themselves, the cardholders use the SP session key to
 communicate with each other and conduct a transaction.

10 Figure 2 demonstrates a financial transaction where the SP directs the transaction phase.
 The transaction shown involves three parties: an EC (a transaction originator) 102, a
 merchant 104, and a service provider (SP) 106. The originating party is an EC cardholder
 who is the consumer and is represented by the computer unit 102. The computer unit 104
 represents the merchant. The computer unit 106 represents the service provider. An SP is
 selected by both an EC and merchant.

15 Figure 2 demonstrates a financial transaction wherein the process flow is from an EC to
 a merchant to an SP. The cryptographic method's process flow is not limited to any particular
 order between merchants and EC cardholders. Figure 2 is merely an example of a particular
 transaction, which flows from EC to merchant to service provider. The process flow can also
 go from merchant to EC to service provider. Figure 2 demonstrates how service provider
 members (in this case, the EC cardholder and the merchant) create, append, and send
 messages to a service provider.

20 The ten arrows numbered 1 to 10 in figure 2 show how the messages flow among the
 three parties during the two transactions phases. Steps 1 through 4 belong to the key exchange
 phase and steps 5 through 10 belong to the transaction phase. In figure 2, the merchant serves
 as an intermediary between the EC and SP. In step 1, the key exchange request is formatted
 by the EC and sent to merchant. In step 2, the merchant combines his own key exchange
 message with the EC's key exchange message and sends the combination key exchange
 message to an SP. In step 3, the SP formats a key exchange response for the merchant,
 formats a key exchange response for the EC, combines the key exchange responses to form a

1 combined key exchange response and sends the combined key exchange response to the
merchant. In step 4, the merchant separates the key exchange response for the merchant from
the key exchange response for the EC and forwards the EC's key exchange response message
back to the EC. Step 4 concludes the main activities in the key exchange phase.

5 The transaction phase begins with step 5. In step 5, the EC formats its transaction
request message and sends it to merchant. In step 6, the merchant combines the received
transaction request message with his own transaction request message and sends the
combination transaction request message to the SP. In step 7, the SP formats a transaction
10 response message for the merchant, formats a transaction response message for the EC,
combines the transaction response messages and sends the combined transaction response
message back to merchant. In step 8, the merchant separates the transaction response
message for the merchant from the transaction response message for the EC and forwards the
EC's transaction response message back to the EC. In step 9, the EC formats a confirmation
15 message and sends it to the merchant. In step 10, the merchant combines the received
confirmation message with his own confirmation message and sends the combination
confirmation message the SP. Step 10 concludes the transaction phase of a transaction.

20 While figure 2 demonstrates a simple transaction, some transactions may involve
multiple messages. During some transactions, more than one message may be required to
complete each phase, in which case, those messages will follow the same rules of
combination and flow pattern. For example, during the transaction phase, the SP may require
25 that the EC and the merchant send over account information first. If the account information
is verified to be valid, the SP sends confirmation of the account information in the response
message. Once the merchant and the EC receives the response message, then the EC and the
merchant send the transaction amount and other transaction related information in the next
30 message going to the SP. The SP subsequently approves or disapproves the transaction. The
steps in figure 2 apply to both the account message and the transaction message.

35 If the completion of a transaction requires interaction with some external system such as
a public key and digital certificate based system 108, the SP will act as a surrogate-certificate
for the EC and the merchant and deal with the external system on behalf of the EC and the

1 merchant. A desired result of the invention is to shield all of the participants of a transaction
from an external system and therefore reduce the number of trust relationships needed to
complete a transaction. If a participant of a transaction has dual membership of this system
5 and an external system, then he has a choice of either acting as a member of this system or as
a member of an external system. In the latter case, the SP will interface with the participants
using the rules of an external system. For example, to deal with an external public and digital
certificate or credential based system, the SP has in its possession all of the required
10 certificate(s) or credential(s) which satisfies the trust relationship demanded by the external
system. Such credentials are required in order for the SP and the external system to complete
the transaction initiated by the EC and the merchant. In this case, only the SP needs to have a
trust relationship with the external system. Based on this trust relationship, individual ECs
and merchants are able to complete transactions with the hypothetical external system.

15 Figure 3 is a diagrammatic representation of a preferred embodiment of an EC. In a
preferred embodiment of the invention, an EC is internally composed of the
software/hardware components shown in Figure 3. The EC is ISO 7816-based and supports
the same kind of communication protocols and commands as defined in ISO 7816.

20 The EC has a card operating system 550 to manage the EC's internal resources. The on-
card cryptographic service 650 can be implemented in software or be provided by a
cryptographic co-processor (not shown in figure 3), or other hardware solutions, or a hybrid
of software and hardware.

25 One of the unique features of the EC is the service provider data area (SPDA) in the EC
memory, which contains the service providers' account and key information. The service
provider data area (SPDA) 700 contains a number of slots. In the preferred embodiment, the
SPDA contains a pre-defined number (e.g. ten) of slots -- one for each potential service
30 provider. In another embodiment, the number of slots may be dynamically changed. A
record for each service provider can be placed into an empty slot. Each record contains the
account number, public key, and other related information for a specific service provider.

35 Depending on the EC design, the SPDA can optionally allow each SP to include some
software (such as an "applet" in the JAVA terminology) to manage its own on-card data and

1 provide an interface between the SP card data and the host application. In other words, the
SPDA can contain more than just simple data; it can allow each SP to put a self-contained
application program (such as an applet) on the EC to provide its own unique service to the
5 cardholder. The advantage of this type of design is that the EC itself is now detached from
the type of service it can provide. Each SP can bring with it its own service capability. When
another SP replaces an on-card SP, there will be no change necessary to the EC platform.
The new SP applet is simply loaded into the card and it will perform what it is designed to do.

10 In the SPDA, each service provider is allocated space for public keys. In many
transactions, only one key pair is used, but for some online transactions, two or more key
pairs are required. If the SP uses the same public/private key pair for both the incoming and
the signing of outgoing messages, then one public key is enough. If the SP uses a different
15 key pair for signing, then both SP public keys (one for incoming messages and one for the
signing of outgoing messages) are required in the SPDA.

20 In the preferred embodiment of the invention, two public/private key pairs rather than
one public/private key pair is used to communicate with other applications through a network
because using two public/private key pairs rather than one public/private key pair provides
greater security. One pair is used for decrypting an incoming message, i.e., the sender
encrypts the message using the recipient's public key and the recipient decrypts the message
using the corresponding private key. The other pair is for the sender to digitally sign the
25 message he sends out and the recipient to verify the digital signature using the corresponding
sender's public key. Each service provider is allocated space for the number of public
keys used by the service provider. If the SP uses the same public/private key pair for both
incoming messages and signing of outgoing messages, then one public key is enough. If the
30 SP uses different key pairs for receiving and signing messages, then both of the SP's public
keys are required in the SPDA.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, more than two public/private key pairs
may be required and used by a service provider for even greater security.

35 When an EC holder is issued a new financial or non-financial instrument, the issuing
institution or a trusted third party will load the needed information comprising a record into

1 an available slot. The information in the slot can be erased when the service provider account
is closed. Some of the information in a slot can be read and modified during a transaction,
e.g. an account balance. Some information such as account number is write protected, but
5 can be read. Some information such as a private key is both read and write protected. The
access conditions 600 contain security information such as PINs, biometric data, etc., that an
EC user must submit to open the card for use or to gain access to the information stored on
the card.

10 Traditional Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) or other security measures such as
biometrics data are used to protect the EC. Biometrics involves the measurement of a
cardholder's biological traits, such as physical traits and behavioral traits. A biometric system
may measure an individual's fingerprints, hand-geometry, hand writing, facial appearance,
15 speech, physical movements, keyboard typing rhythms, eye features, breath, body odor,
DNA, or any other physical attribute of the cardholder. The functions provided by an EC can
be activated only after all the access conditions have been satisfied. Each service provider
residing on the card can optionally implement other access conditions.

20 Figure 4 shows the format of the service provider data area of a preferred embodiment of
the invention. Each service provider's information is allocated an entry in the table, which
can be protected by additional access conditions. The PIN 712 and the miscellaneous data
field 714 allows the service provider to provide extra protection or data field to the instrument
it supports. The name field 702 contains the names of the service providers, which can be
25 used by the cardholder at the beginning of an online transaction to initially select the
applicable service provider for a transaction. The key type field 704 specifies the type of key
the service provider chooses to use, secret key, public key, etc. The key value 706 and
30 account information fields 708 contain information unique to each service provider. The card
type field 710 specifies the type of instrument a service provider supports.

35 In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the on-card Operating System (COS)
provides some fundamental services for the cardholder. Following is a list of general
functions which can be performed by the COS:

- (1) Traditional OS functionality such as Memory management, task management, etc
- (2) External communication-read/write of user data and communication protocol handling.
- (3) Loading and updating of on-card cardholder information.
- (4) User PIN changes.
- (5) Service Provider Data Area management-such as loading and updating of individual service provider information, SPDA access control, etc.

The COS will also provide support during various stages of a transaction. For example, the COS can handle the SP selection at the beginning of a transaction and record the transaction into a log file when the transaction has been completed. An embodiment of the invention may implement one of the following two design approaches to the COS or a hybrid of the two design approaches:

- (1) Most of the intelligence can be put into the COS whereby the COS supports most of the EC functionalities. Consequently, each on-card service provider area relies on the COS to carry out the transaction with the merchant and the SP. In this approach, the COS can provide a uniform interface with the outside world for all on-card SPs and efficiently carries out the transaction once a SP has been selected.
- (2) Alternatively, the COS can be a pool of general services each on-card SP can utilize. Each SP data area can contain applets, which have the intelligence to carry out a transaction with the merchant and the SP. In this approach, the SP has more opportunity to implement its own unique feature when performing a transaction.

Figure 5 shows how digital signatures are used in the preferred embodiment of the invention. A sender of a message first prepares and sends the data portion of a message M 900 through a one way hash algorithm, $H(*)$ 902. The output from the hash algorithm is called the message digest MD of the data portion of message M 903. The MD is then encrypted, $E(MD)$ 904, i.e. digitally signed, using the sender's private key (Pri). The result is called the digital signature DS of a data portion of a message M. The DS is then combined with the original data portion of the message M 900 and forms a complete message 906 ready for transmission to a recipient through a network 50.

1 The public-key encryption/decryption function can be any of a number of
 encryption/decryption functions. RSA, which takes its name from the first initials of RSA
 developers' last names (Ronald Rivest, Adi Shamir, and Len Adelman), is just one example
 5 of a public-key encryption/decryption method, which can be used in an embodiment of the
 invention.

When the intended recipient receives the message from a network 50, he first separates
 the data portion of the message M 900 from the digital signature 912 combined with it. The
 10 recipient then runs the data portion of the message M 900 through the same hash algorithm
 910 that was used to encode the data portion of message M 900, and consequently obtains a
 message digest MD⁹¹¹ of the data portion of message M. The recipient then decrypts
 D(DS) 908 using the EC's public key, the digital signature 912 contained in the original
 15 message using the sender's public key and recovers the original message digest, denoted here
 as MD 909. MD 909 is compared with the new calculated MD⁹¹¹ for correctness. If they
 are not identical, the original message has been corrupted and should be rejected.

Following is a list of symbols and abbreviations used in the figures 5 through 11:

20 Acknowledgement Data_{EC} = A part of the message sent back by the EC to the SP. It notifies
 the SP that the previous message has been successfully received and processed.

Acknowledgement Data_M = A part of the message sent back by the merchant to the SP. It
 notifies the SP that the previous message has been successfully received and processed.

25 AI_{EC} = Account information of EC holder.

AI_M = Account information of merchant.

CRYPTO = Cryptogram

D = Decryption function

30 **D_{SP-Private-Key}** = Decryption using SP's private key.

DS = Digital signature function.

DS_{EC-Private-Key} = Digital signature signed by the EC on a message.

DS_{M-Private-Key} = Digital signature signed by the merchant on a message.

35 **DS_{SP-Private-Key}** = Digital signature signed by the SP on a message.

E = Encryption function.

E (Data) = Encryption of data under a data encryption key.

E_{SP-PK}, E_{SP-Public-Key} = Data encrypted by SP public key

E_{Skey-EC}, D_{Skey-EC} = Encryption/Decryption using the session key that the SP generated for the EC.

E_{Skey-M}, D_{Skey-M} = Encryption/Decryption using the session key that the SP generated for the merchant.

EC = Electronic card, or electronic card equivalent software

H (M) = Apply a one-way hashing algorithm on M. It generates the message digest (**MD**) of M.

KE = Key exchange phase.

M = Merchant

MD = Message Digest

MD[^] = Message Digest produced by message recipient using the message just received as input data.

MD_{EC} = The message digest of a message going from EC to SP.

MD_M = The message digest of a message going from merchant to SP.

MD_{SP-M} = The message digest of a message going from SP to merchant.

MD_{SP-EC} = The message digest of a message going from SP to EC which is by passed by merchant.

PLAIN TEXT: Transaction data, which can be transmitted without encryption. Plain text can be different for different messages and transaction parties.

PLAIN TEXT_{EC} = Part of the transaction data provided by EC in its outgoing messages. Plain text data fields are not security sensitive. Therefore, they are transmitted without encryption.

Note that the content of this symbol can be different when used in a different message.

PLAIN TEXT_M = Part of the transaction data provided by merchant in its outgoing messages. Plain text data fields are not security sensitive. Therefore, they are transmitted without encryption. Note that the content of this symbol can be different when used in a different message.

PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} = Part of the transaction data provided by SP for EC only in its outgoing

1 messages. Plain text data fields are not security sensitive. Therefore, they are transmitted without encryption. Note that the content of this symbol can be different when used in a different message.

5 PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M} = Part of the transaction data provided by SP for merchant only in its outgoing messages. Plain text data fields are not security sensitive. Therefore, they are transmitted without encryption. Note that the content of this symbol can be different when used in a different message.

10 STD = Sensitive transaction data, which requires encryption during data transmission.

STD_{EC} = Sensitive transaction digital data provided by EC in its outgoing messages. Note that the content of this symbol can be different when used in a different message.

STD_M = Sensitive transaction digital data provided by merchant in its outgoing messages.

15 Note that the content of this symbol can be different when used in a different message.

PK = Public key

EC-PK, PK_{EC} = Public key of the electronic card.

M-PK, PK_M = Public key of the merchant.

20 SP-PK, PK_{SP} = Public key of the selected service provider.

Response Data_{SP-EC} = A part of the message sent back by the SP to the EC during the transaction phase of a transaction. It can include approval/disapproval data and/or any other relevant data.

25 Response Data_{SP-M} = A part of the message sent back by the SP to the merchant during the transaction phase of a transaction. It can include approval/disapproval data and/or any other relevant data.

RN = Random number.

30 RN_{EC} = Random number generated by the EC and is sent to SP.

RN_{SP-EC} = Random number generated by the SP and is sent to EC.

RN_M = Random number generated by the merchant.

RN_{SP-M} = Random number generated by the SP and is sent to M.

35 SP = Financial or non-financial service provider

TA = Transaction (currency) amount.

Transaction Identification Number_{SP-EC}, TID_{SP-EC} (Transaction ID_{SP-EC}) = A data field whose value is assigned by the SP during the key exchange phase of a transaction. The EC will use this value to communicate with the SP during the same transaction.

Transaction Identification Number_{SP-M}, TID_{SP-M} (Transaction ID_{SP-M}) = A data field whose value is assigned by the SP during the key exchange phase of a transaction. The merchant will use this value to communicate with the SP during the same transaction.

* = Combine or concatenation of data within an encryption **E** or a decryption **D**.

Figures 6A through 6Q comprise the flowchart for a preferred embodiment of the cryptographic system and method. For the purpose of simplifying the description and symbolism contained in figures 6A through 6Q, the flowchart assumes that each of the parties involved in the transaction uses one key pair. In another embodiment of the invention, two public key pairs may be used, in which case, both public keys need to be exchanged.

The preferred embodiment of the invention consists of two distinct phases: the key exchange phase and the transaction phase.

PHASE I: KEY EXCHANGE PHASE (HANDSHAKE PHASE)

The EC cardholder inserts the EC into a card read/write device or starts the EC equivalent software and enters a PIN number and/or satisfies the access conditions 110 to use the EC card. The entered security information conditions is compared 112 with the on-card information 114 to verify that user is authorized to use the EC. If the security information does not match the card security information, then the request to use the card is rejected 116. Otherwise, the card is unlocked 118 for use. Once the card is unlocked, the user can request the list of the on-card SPs available for selection and make a selection 120 by issuing an SP selection command to the EC. Once the SP is selected, the EC proceeds to start the key exchange (KE) with the SP. The public key of the selected SP, represented by the symbols SP-PK and PK_{SP}, is obtained from the EC's SPDA and is used to encrypt messages that will be sent to the SP.

The main purpose of the KE is to securely send the cardholder's public key, PK_{EC} 126 and an EC random number, RN_{EC} 124 to the SP. The SP response to the EC is to assign a

1 session key and a transaction ID to the EC, which will be used by the EC to communicate
 with the SP for the rest of the transaction. To format the KE message, the EC generates a
 random number, RN_{EC} 124, concatenates it with the EC's public key, PK_{EC} 126, and EC
 5 sensitive transaction data STD_{EC} 128 relevant to the transaction and/or required by the SP.
 The EC encrypts them 122 using the SP's public key, PK_{SP} , retrieved from the SPDA 120.
 The resulting EC cryptogram, $E_{ES-PK}(RN_{EC} * PK_{EC} * STD_{EC})$, is then combined 130 with the
 plain text portion of the message, $PLAIN TEXT_{EC}$ 132, if any, to form an EC combination
 10 message, $PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * E_{SP-PK}(RN_{EC} * PK_{EC} * STD_{EC})$. The EC's public key PK_{EC} 126 may
 be placed in the plain text $PLAIN TEXT_{EC}$ instead of being encrypted when forming the EC
 combination message.

15 Only sensitive data is encrypted. Non-sensitive response data is included in the plain
 text. Only the SP is able to read the sensitive data. In a multi-party transaction, the SP has
 full access to the sensitive information of all the participants.

The resulting EC combination message is then sent through a hashing algorithm 134 to
 form a hash message, which is the EC message digest MD_{EC} . The EC message digest MD_{EC}
 20 is digitally signed by the EC 136 using the EC private key 138 to form a digitally signed
 message $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$. The digitally signed message $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ is then combined 140 with
 the EC combination message. The combination of the plain text $PLAIN TEXT_{EC}$, cryptogram
 $CRYPTO_{EC}$ and the digital signature $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ is the KE message from the EC and is sent
 25 to the merchant 158 through a network. Plain text includes all the transaction data fields that
 are not sensitive in nature and therefore can be transmitted in a clear, discernable form; they
 do not need to be encrypted. These data fields are different for each message and are defined
 by the transacting parties.

30 To communicate with the SP, the merchant goes through essentially the same steps to
 format its own KE message with the SP as the EC goes through to format the EC's KE
 message with the merchant. The cardholder and the merchant do not communicate with the
 SP individually, but through a combined message. Consequently, there will be no need to
 35 exchange any confidential financial information between the cardholder and the merchant.

1 The merchant prepares his device for the transaction 142 and selects from his own SPDA,
which resides within the merchant's device, the same SP as the EC cardholder has selected for
the transaction 144. The public key of the SP, represented by the symbols SP-PK and PK_{SP} , is
5 obtained from the SP's SPDA and is used to encrypt messages that will be sent to the SP.

To format its own KE message, the merchant generates a random number, RN_M 148,
concatenates it with the merchant's public key, PK_M 150, and the merchant's sensitive
transaction data STD_M . Sensitive transaction data is data that is relevant to the transaction
10 and/or required by the SP 152. The merchant encrypts 146 the combined data using the
public key of the service provider, PK_{SP} . The resulting cryptogram is then combined 154 with
the plain text portion $PLAIN\ TEXT_M$ 156 of the message, if any, to form a merchant
combination message. The merchant's public key PK_M 150 may be placed within the plain
text $PLAIN\ TEXT_M$ instead of being encrypted when forming the merchant combination
15 message $PLAIN\ TEXT_M * E_{SP-PK}(RN_M * PK_M * STD_M)$.

The merchant combination message $[PLAIN\ TEXT_M * E_{SP-PK}(RN_M * PK_M * STD_M)]$ is
further combined 158 with the EC's KE message $\{[PLAIN\ TEXT_{EC} * E_{SP-PK}(RN_{EC} * PK_{EC} * STD_{EC})] * DS_{EC-Private-Key}\}$ to form the data portion of the KE message for both
20 the merchant and the EC, i.e., the EC-merchant combination message $\{[PLAIN\ TEXT_{EC} * E_{SP-PK}(RN_{EC} * PK_{EC} * STD_{EC})] * DS_{EC-Private-Key}\} * [PLAIN\ TEXT_M * E_{SP-PK}(RN_M * PK_M * STD_M)]$. The EC-
merchant combination message is sent through a hashing algorithm 160 to form a hash
message, which is the merchant message digest MD_M . The merchant message digest MD_M is
25 digitally signed 162 by the merchant using the merchant's private key 164 to form a merchant
digitally signed message $DS_{M-Private-Key}$. The merchant digitally signed message $DS_{M-Private-Key}$ is
then combined 166 with the data portion of the message, i.e., the EC-merchant combination
message to form a key exchange request message $\ll \{ [PLAIN\ TEXT_{EC} * E_{SP-PK}(RN_{EC} * PK_{EC} * STD_{EC})] * DS_{EC-Private-Key} \} * [PLAIN\ TEXT_M * E_{SP-PK}(RN_M * PK_M * STD_M)] \gg * DS_{M-Private-Key}$
30 for both the merchant and EC. This final message is sent to the SP through a
network. Figure 7 represents the final format and content of the key exchange request
message from a merchant to an SP.
35

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the merchant does not check the MD of

1 the EC's request message MD_{EC} because the EC encrypts his public key. However, in an
 alternate embodiment of the invention, if the EC chooses not to encrypt his public key then
 the merchant can optionally check the EC's MD before passing it to the SP. In either the case
 5 where the EC encrypts his public key or where the EC does not encrypt his public key, for
 enhanced security and to avoid possible processing errors by the merchant, the SP can still
 check the EC's MD. When the merchant receives a combination response from the SP for
 both himself and the EC, the merchant does not have to check the MD for the EC since it is
 10 part of the overall message formed by a single originator -- the SP. The merchant only needs
 to check the MD of the overall message he receives from the SP.

When the SP receives the KE request message, the SP first separates 168 the data
 portion of the KE request message from the DS and feeds the data portion of the KE request
 15 message into a one-way hash algorithm to recalculate the message digest, which becomes
 MD_M . The SP then separates the merchant's plain text $PLAIN\ TEXT_M$, cryptogram
 $CRYPTO_M$, digital signature $DS_{M-Private-Key}$ and the EC's KE request message $PLAIN$
 $TEXT_{EC} * CRYPTO_{EC} * DS_{EC-Private-Key}$. Using its own private key, the SP decrypts merchant's
 20 cryptogram 170 and recovers, among other information, the merchant's random number RN_M
 148 and the merchant's public key PK_M 150. The SP then uses the recovered PK_M to decrypt
 the digital signature signed by the merchant $DS_{M-Private-Key}$ and recovers the MD_M for the
 merchant's KE message. The SP compares 172 the newly hashed MD^*_M 168 with the MD_M
 25 170 recovered by decrypting the DS from the original KE message. If there is a discrepancy
 between MD^*_M and MD_M found, then the KE message has been corrupted and is therefore
 rejected 174. If MD^*_M and MD_M match, then the SP separates the data portion of the EC's KE
 request message from the DS and feeds the data portion of the EC's KE request message into
 30 a one-way hash algorithm to recalculate the message digest (MD^*_{EC}). The SP then separates
 the EC's plain text $PLAIN\ TEXT_{EC}$, if any, cryptogram $CRYPTO_{EC}$, and digital signature
 $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ in the data portion of the EC's KE request message 176. Using its own private
 key, the SP decrypts EC's cryptogram and recovers, among other information, EC's random
 35 number RN_{EC} and EC's public key PK_{EC} . The SP then uses the recovered PK_{EC} to decrypt the
 digital signature signed by EC and recovers the MD_{EC} for EC's KE message. In the step 178,

1 SP compares the newly hashed MD_{EC}^{176} with the MD_{EC} recovered by decrypting the DS
from the original KE message. If there is any discrepancy found, the KE message has been
corrupted and is therefore rejected 180. Otherwise, SP is ready to send a KE response
5 message back to merchant and EC.

To format the KE response message for the EC, the SP generates a random number,
 RN_{SP-EC} 184, and a session key $Skey_{EC}$ 186 for the EC, combines them with the EC generated
random number, 188 RN_{EC} , service provider sensitive transaction data STD_{SP-EC} 190 and
10 encrypts them 192 using the EC's public key PK_{EC} . The resulting cryptogram,
 $E_{EC-PK}(RN_{EC} * RN_{SP-EC} * Skey_{EC} * STD_{SP-EC})$, is combined 196 with a transaction identification
number, TID_{SP-EC} 194 assigned to the EC by the SP and plain text, $PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC}$ 195, if
any, to form the data portion of the response message for the EC. The SP runs this data
15 through a hash algorithm to calculate the message digest MD_{SP-EC} 198. Using its own private
key 202, the SP creates a digital signature $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ 200 for the response message by
digitally signing the message digest MD_{SP-EC} . After combining 204 the data portion of the
message with the newly calculated $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$, the SP's KE response message for the EC is
20 complete, $[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{EC-PK}(RN_{SP-EC} * RN_{EC} * Skey_{EC} * STD_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-}$
Key.

To format the KE response message for the merchant, the SP generates a random
number RN_{SP-M} 208 and a session key $Skey_M$ 210 for the merchant and combines them with
25 the merchant generated random number RN_M 212, sensitive transaction data STD_{SP-M} 214 and
encrypts them 206 using the merchant's public key PK_M recovered in 170. The resulting
cryptogram is combined 216 with a transaction identification number, TID_{SP-M} 218, assigned
to the merchant by the SP and plain text, $PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M}$ 220, if any, to form the data
30 portion of the response message for merchant. The resulting combination message, TID_{SP-}
 $M * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M} * E_{M-PK}(RN_{SP-M} * RN_M * Skey_M * STD_{SP-M})$ is further combined 222 with the
KE response message for the EC, $[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{EC-PK}(RN_{SP-}$
 $EC * RN_{EC} * Skey_{EC} * STD_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key}$, to form the data portion of the SP's final KE
35 response message, $[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{EC-PK}(RN_{SP-}$

1 $EC * RN_{EC} * Skey_{EC} * STD_{EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M} * E_{M-PK}(RN_{SP-M} * RN_M * Skey_M * STD_{SP-M})]$. The SP runs the data portion through a hash algorithm to calculate the message digest 224. Using its own private key 228, the SP creates a digital
 5 signature, $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ 226, for the response message by digitally signing the message digest. After combining 230 the data portion of the message with the newly calculated DS 226, the KE response message for both the EC and the merchant is complete. The response message
 10 $<< \{ [TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * (E_{EC-PK} * RN_{SP-EC} * RN_{EC} * Skey_{EC} * STD_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key} \} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M} * E_{M-PK}(RN_{SP-M} * RN_M * Skey_M * STD_{SP-M})] >> DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ is sent back to the merchant through a network. Figure 8 depicts the final format and content of the combined KE response message from the SP to the merchant.

When the merchant receives the KE response message 232, the merchant first separates
 15 the $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$, which was signed by the SP, and then feeds the data portion of the combined KE response message into a one-way hash algorithm to recalculate the message digest MD_{SP-M}^{\wedge} . The merchant then separates the data portion of the SP's KE response message, i.e., TID_{SP-M} , $PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M}$, $CRYPTO_{SP-M}$, $[(TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * CRYPTO_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key}$. The merchant uses SP's public key (selected from 144) to decrypt the digital
 20 signature $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ to recover the message digest MD_{SP-M} . The merchant compares 234 the newly hashed MD_{SP-M}^{\wedge} with the MD_{SP-M} . If there is any discrepancy between MD_{SP-M}^{\wedge} and MD_{SP-M} , the KE response message has been corrupted and is therefore rejected 236. If MD_{SP-M}^{\wedge} and MD_{SP-M} match, then the merchant identifies the part of the response message which is
 25 meant for him and decrypts the cryptogram $CRYPTO_{SP-M}$ 238 using his own private key. The merchant should be able to recover the original random number RN_M (of 148) that he sent to the SP in the KE request message. The merchant compares 240 the recovered random
 30 number RN_M (of the step 238) with the original random number RN_M . If they are not equal, then the message has been corrupted and the message is rejected 242. Since the random number RN_M can only be recovered by the SP using the correct SP private key, it is assured that the sender of the message is indeed the selected SP. The merchant then forwards the
 35 EC's KE response message $[(TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * CRYPTO_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ to the EC and prepares for the transaction phase of the transaction.

1 When the EC receives the KE response message 260, the EC first separates the DS_{SP}
 Private-Key, which was signed by the SP, and then feeds the data portion of the KE response
 message for the EC into a one-way hash algorithm producing a MD_{SP-EC} . The EC then
 5 separates the data portion of the message, i.e., TID_{SP-EC} , $PLAIN\ TEXT_{SP-EC}$, $CRYPTO_{SP-EC}$,
 $DS_{SP-Private-key}$. The EC uses SP's public key (selected in 120) to decrypt the digital signature
 $DS_{SP-Private-key}$ message and recovers the message digest MD_{SP-EC} . The EC compares 262 the
 newly hashed MD_{SP-EC} (in 260) with the MD_{SP-EC} recovered by decrypting the $DS_{SP-Private-key}$
 10 from the KE response message for EC. If there is any discrepancy between MD_{SP-EC} and
 MD_{SP-EC} found, the KE response message for the EC has been corrupted and is therefore
 rejected 264. If MD_{SP-EC} and MD_{SP-EC} match, the EC identifies the part of the response
 message which is meant for him and decrypts 266 the cryptogram $CRYPTO_{SP-EC}$, which is
 15 contained in the message, using his own private key. The EC should be able to recover the
 original random number RN_{EC} (of 124) that was sent in the EC KE request message. The EC
 compares 268 the recovered random number RN_{EC} (of 266) with the original random number
 RN_{EC} (of 124). If the random numbers are not equal, then the message has been corrupted and
 20 the message is rejected 270. Since only the SP using the correct SP private key can recover
 the random number RN_{EC} , this serves to ensure that the sender of the message is indeed the
 selected SP. The EC prepares for the transaction phase of the transaction.

25 There will be a predefined timeout period set in the EC and the merchant. During a
 transaction, if a response message is not received within a timeout period, the EC and the
 merchant will consider the transaction aborted and will either retry or start the recovery
 process.

30 After successful completion of the KE message exchanges, the SP has EC's public key
 and the merchant's public key. At this point, both the EC and the merchant has a random
 number, a transaction ID, and a session key from the SP. The EC and the merchant must
 send the two random numbers recovered from the KE response message back to the SP to
 complete the key exchange phase of the transaction. This can be done in two ways. The
 35 random numbers can be sent back through a confirmation message from both the EC and the
 merchant. Or the random numbers can be sent back as part of the next message going out

1 from the EC and the merchant to the SP, such as a transaction message. The second method is
 simpler and is described in phase II below. The random numbers are used only once to
 ensure the correctness of the key exchange between the SP and merchant, and the SP and EC.
 5 Once the session keys and transaction identification number have been established, the
 random number are no longer be used.

PHASE II: TRANSACTION PHASE

10 During the transaction phase, the merchant and the EC each sends their own account
 information such as an account number and other transaction related data such as transaction
 amount, request for approval or other processing, to the SP. Again, the EC and the merchant
 talk to the SP individually but through combined messages and the merchant is responsible
 15 for combining the messages and sending them as one message to the SP.

The EC first forms the transaction message by concatenating the random number RN_{SP-EC}
 274 from the SP and the EC's account information with the selected SP, AI_{EC} 276, transaction
 amount TA 280 and any other sensitive data 278 relevant to the transaction and/or required
 by the SP. The EC encrypts 272 them using the session key $Skey_{EC}$ assigned by the SP. The
 20 $Skey_{EC}$ is a secret key and uses a cryptographic algorithm different from the cryptographic
 algorithm used for the public key encryption. The resulting cryptogram $CRYPTO_{EC}$, i.e.,
 $Skey_{EC}(RN_{SP-EC} * STD_{EC} * AI_{EC} * TA)$, is then combined 282 with the transaction ID TID_{SP-EC} 284
 and the plain text $PLAIN TEXT_{EC}$ 286, if any, to form the data portion of the EC's transaction
 25 message, $TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * CRYPTO_{EC}$. The data portion 282 is fed into a one-way
 hash algorithm 288 to calculate the message digest MD_{EC} and the MD_{EC} is then digitally
 signed 290 by the EC's private key 292. The resulting digital signature 290 is combined with
 30 the data portion of the message (from 282) 294 to form EC's transaction request message and
 then sent to the merchant, $[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * Skey_{EC}(RN_{SP-EC} * STD_{EC} * AI_{EC} * TA)] * DS_{EC-Private-Key}$.

The merchant goes through essentially the same steps to form his transaction message.
 35 The merchant forms his transaction message by concatenating 246 the RN_{SP-M} from the SP
 and the merchant's account information with the selected SP, AI_M 248, transaction amount

TA 252 and any other sensitive data STD_M 250 relevant to the transaction and/or required by the SP. The merchant encrypts them 244 using the session key $Skey_M$ assigned by the SP. The session key $Skey_M$ is a secret key and is created using a different cryptographic algorithm, such as DES, from the cryptographic algorithm used for public key encryption. The session key $Skey_M$ is used to perform the encryption at this point to create the cryptogram $CRYPTO_M$. The resulting cryptogram $CRYPTO_M$, i.e., $Skey_M(RN_{SP-M} * STD_M * AI_M * TA)$, is then combined 254 with the transaction ID TID_{SP-M} 256 and the plain text $PLAIN TEXT_M$ 258, if any, to form the data portion of the merchant's transaction message, $TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_M * CRYPTO_M$. This data is combined 296 with the EC's transaction request to form the data portion of the final transaction request message for the SP, $[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * Skey_{EC}(RN_{SP-EC} * STD_{EC} * AI_{EC} * TA)] * DS_{EC-Private-Key} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_M * Skey_M(RN_{SP-M} * STD_M * AI_M * TA)]$. As before, the merchant feeds his combined data through a one-way hash algorithm 298 to calculate the message digest MD_M and the MD_M is then digitally signed 300 by the merchant's private key 302. The resulting digital signature $DS_{M-Private-Key}$ 300 is combined 304 with the data portion of the message (from 296) to form the final transaction request message and is then sent to the SP, $\{[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * Skey_{EC}(RN_{SP-EC} * STD_{EC} * AI_{EC} * TA)] * DS_{EC-Private-Key} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_M * Skey_M(RN_{SP-M} * STD_M * AI_M * TA)]\} * DS_{M-Private-Key}$. Figure 9 depicts the final format of the transaction request message.

When the SP receives the transaction request message, the SP first checks 306 the two transaction identification numbers, i.e., TID_{SP-EC} and TID_{SP-M} , sent by the EC and the merchant and makes sure they are valid. When either TID_{SP-M} (of 218) or TID_{SP-EC} (of 194) is found invalid 306, then the message is rejected 308. If the transaction identification numbers are both valid, then the SP proceeds to separate the $DS_{M-Private-Key}$ from the data portion of the message and feeds the data portion of the message, $\{[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * Skey_{EC}(RN_{SP-EC} * STD_{EC} * AI_{EC} * TA)] * DS_{EC-Private-Key} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_M * Skey_M(RN_{SP-M} * STD_M * AI_M * TA)]\}$ into a one-way hash algorithm to calculate the message digest MD^*_M of this message. The SP separates the data portion of the message, i.e., TID_{SP-M} , $PLAIN TEXT_M$, $CRYPTO_M$, $DS_{M-Private-Key}$, $(TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * CRYPTO_{EC}) * DS_{EC-Private-Key}$. The

1 SP decrypts 310 the $DS_{M-Private-Key}$ using the merchant's public key and compares the newly recovered message digest MD_M with the message digest just calculated MD^*_M (from 306). If MD^*_M and MD_M are not equal, the message has been corrupted and is rejected 314. If MD^*_M and MD_M match, then the SP decrypts 316 the encrypted portion of the message using the session key $Skey_M$ (of 210) it assigned to the merchant during the KE phase and recovers the data fields contained in the encrypted portion. The SP compares 318 the random number RN_{SP-M} the merchant sends back in the message with the message the SP sent to the merchant originally, RN_{SP-M} (from 208). If the random numbers are not equal, then the merchant has failed the mutual authentication test and the message is rejected 320.

In addition, the SP will verify the EC's account information AI_{EC} and the transaction data such as the transaction amount TA. The message is rejected 320 if the AI is no longer valid. It is also rejected when the TA from the EC and the TA from the merchant do not match. There may be other conditions for invalidating a message. If the account information AI_{EC} and the transaction are valid, then the SP goes on to verify the EC portion of the message.

As with the merchant's message, the SP first separates 322 the $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ from the EC's message and feeds the data portion of the EC's message, $(TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * CRYPTO_{EC})$ into a one-way hash algorithm to calculate the message digest MD^*_{EC} of the EC message. The SP separates the data portion of EC's transaction request, TID_{SP-EC} , PLAIN TEXT_{EC}, CRYPTO_{EC}, $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$. The SP decrypts 324 $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ using EC's public key PK_{EC} and recovers MD_{EC} . The SP compares 326 the recovered MD_{EC} with MD^*_{EC} . If MD^*_{EC} and MD_{EC} are not equal, the message has been corrupted and is rejected 328. If MD^*_{EC} and MD_{EC} match, then the SP decrypts 330 the encrypted portion of the EC message using the session key $Skey_{EC}$ (of 186) it assigned to the EC during the KE phase and recovers the data fields contained in it. The SP compares 332 the random number RN_{SP-EC} the EC sends back in the message with the random number RN_{SP-EC} it sent out to the EC originally (in 184). If the random numbers are not equal, then the EC has failed the mutual authentication test and the message is rejected 334. The SP will verify the merchant's account information AI_M and the transaction data such as the transaction amount TA and will reject the message when the account information is invalid or when the transaction data does not meet the SP's

1 criterion 334. Once the integrity and authenticity of the overall message has been established,
the SP can process the data contained in the message and send a response message back. The
random number that is sent back in this message completes the mutual authentication
5 between the SP and the merchant, and between the SP and the EC. After this message, no
exchange of random numbers will be necessary. The SP can choose to use the random
number as the transaction identification number which the merchant and the EC will use in all
subsequent messages that they send to the SP.

10 As before, the response message contains information for both the EC and the merchant.

To format the transaction response message for the EC, the SP generates the response data
for the EC, Response Data_{SP-EC} 338, and encrypts 336 it using the session key Skey_{EC} assigned
to the EC. Only sensitive data is encrypted. Non-sensitive response data is included in the
15 plain text. The cryptogram CRYPTO_{SP-EC}, i.e., $E_{Skey-EC}(Response\ Data_{SP-EC})$, is combined 340
with the transaction identification number TID_{SP-EC} 342 that the SP assigned to the EC (from
194) and the plain text that the SP has for EC 344, if any, to form the data portion of the
response message for the EC, i.e., $TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN\ TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{Skey-EC}(Response\ Data_{SP-EC})$.

20 The data portion of the message is fed into a hash algorithm 346 to generate a MD_{SP-EC} which
is digitally signed 348 by the SP using the SP's private key 350. The DS_{SP-Private-Key} is
combined 352 with the data portion of the response message (from 340) to form the complete
response message for the EC, $[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN\ TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{Skey-EC}(Response\ Data_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key}$.

25 To format the transaction response message for the merchant, the SP
generates the response data for the merchant, Response Data_{SP-M} 356, and encrypts 354 it
using the session key Skey_M assigned to the merchant (from 210). The cryptogram
CRYPTO_{SP-M}, is combined 358 with the transaction identification number TID_{SP-M} assigned to
30 merchant 360 (from 218) and the plain text PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M} that the SP has for merchant
362, if any, to form the data portion of the response message for the merchant, $TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN\ TEXT_{SP-M} * CRYPTO_{SP-M}$.

The data is then combined 364 with the completed
response message for the EC to form the data portion of the response message for both the
35 EC and the merchant, $[(TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN\ TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{Skey-EC}(Response\ Data_{SP-EC})) * DS_{SP-Private-Key}] * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN\ TEXT_{SP-M} * E_{Skey-M}(Response\ Data_{SP-M})]$.

1 The data is then fed into a hash algorithm 366 to generate a MD_{SP-M} which is digitally
 signed 368 by the SP using the SP's private key 370. The $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ is combined 372 with
 the data portion of the response message for both the EC and the merchant to form the
 5 complete response message for both the EC and the merchant, $\ll\{[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{Skey-EC}(Response Data_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key}\} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M} * E_{Skey-M}(Response Data_{SP-M})] \gg * DS_{SP-Private-Key}$. The SP then sends its response message back to the merchant.
 Figure 10 depicts the final format of the transaction response message.

10 When the merchant receives the message, the merchant first checks 374 the transaction
 identification number, TID_{SP-M} , in the message and makes sure it is valid. If the transaction
 identification number is invalid then the message is rejected 376. If the TID_{SP-M} is valid, then
 the merchant separates the $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ which was signed by the SP from the data portion of
 the message, and then feeds the data portion of the transaction response message $\ll\{[TID_{SP-EC}$
 15 $* PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * E_{Skey-EC}(Response Data_{SP-EC})] * DS_{SP-Private-Key}\} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-M} * E_{Skey-M}(Response Data_{SP-M})] \gg$ into a one-way hash algorithm producing a MD^{\wedge}_{SP-M} . The
 merchant separates the data portion of the message into different parts, TID_{SP-M} , $PLAIN$
 20 $TEXT_{SP-M}$, $CRYPTO_{SP-M}$, $DS_{SP-Private-Key} (TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * CRYPTO_{SP-EC} * DS_{SP-Private-Key})$ and prepares to forward SP's transaction response message to the EC. The merchant
 decrypts 378 the encrypted portion of the SP's message using the session key $Skey_M$ assigned
 by the SP during the KE phase and recovers the data fields contained within it. The merchant
 then uses SP's public key, PK_{SP} (from 144), to decrypt the digital signature $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ to
 25 recover MD_{SP-M} . The merchant compares 380 the newly hashed MD^{\wedge}_{SP-M} (from 374) with the
 recovered MD_{SP-M} . If MD^{\wedge}_{SP-M} and MD_{SP-M} do not match, then the transaction response
 message has been corrupted and is therefore rejected 382. If the message digests match, then
 the merchant starts processing the message. As usual, the EC portion of the transaction
 30 response message ($TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP-EC} * CRYPTO_{SP-EC} * DS_{SP-Private-Key}$) is passed to
 EC.

When the EC receives the transaction response message, the EC first checks 394 the
 35 transaction identification number, TID_{SP-EC} , in the message and makes sure it is valid. If the
 transaction identification numbers is invalid, then the message is rejected 396. If the

1 transaction identification number is valid, then the merchant separates the $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ which
 was signed by the SP, from the data portion of the transaction response message, and then
 feeds the data portion of the EC transaction response message $TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{SP}$.
 5 $EC * E_{Skey-EC}(Response Data_{SP-EC})$ into a one-way hash algorithm producing MD^{\wedge}_{SP-EC} . The EC
 separates the message into different parts, TID_{SP-EC} , $PLAIN_{SP-EC}$, $CRYPTO_{SP-EC}$, $DS_{SP-Private-}$
 Key . The EC decrypts 398 the encrypted portion of SP's message using the session key $Skey$
 assigned by the SP during the KE phase and recovers the data fields contained within it. The
 10 EC uses SP's public key (from 120) to decrypt the digital signature $DS_{SP-Private-Key}$ and recovers
 the message digest MD_{SP-EC} . The merchant compares 400 the newly hashed MD^{\wedge}_{SP-EC} 394
 with the recovered MD_{SP-EC} . If MD^{\wedge}_{SP-EC} and MD_{SP-EC} do not match, then the transaction
 response message has been corrupted and is therefore rejected 402. If the message digests
 15 match, then the EC starts processing the message.

At the end of the transaction, the EC and the merchant can, if required by the SP, send
 an acknowledgement message to the SP to signal that the response message has been
 correctly received and processed. This acknowledgement data can be included as a part of the
 20 next message to be sent to the SP, if there are more messages to be exchanged between the SP
 and the merchant and the EC before the transaction ends. Or the acknowledgement data can
 be a message by itself.

To format the acknowledgement message, the EC first encrypts 404 the sensitive part of
 the acknowledgement data, $Acknowledgement Data_{EC}$, 406, if any, using the session key,
 $Skey_{EC}$, thus creating $Skey_{EC}(Acknowledgement Data_{EC})$. The EC combines 408 the resulting
 cryptogram with the transaction identification number TID_{SP-EC} 410 assigned by the SP and
 the plain text $PLAIN TEXT_{EC}$ 412, if any. This forms the data portion of EC's
 30 acknowledgement message, $TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * Skey_{EC}(Acknowledgement Data_{EC})$.
 This combined data is then fed into a one-way hash algorithm 414 to generate the MD_{EC} . The
 resulting MD_{EC} is then digitally signed 416 by the EC using the EC's private key 418 to
 generate a $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$. The $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ is combined 420 with the data portion of the
 35 message (from 408) to form the complete acknowledgement message for the EC, $[TID_{SP}$

1 $_{EC} * \text{PLAIN TEXT}_{EC} * \text{Skey}_{EC}(\text{Acknowledgement Data}_{EC}) * \text{DS}_{EC-Private-Key}$. The acknowledgement message is then sent to the merchant.

The merchant goes through the same steps to form his own acknowledgement message.

5 To format the acknowledgement message, the merchant first encrypts the sensitive parts of the acknowledgement data, Acknowledgement Data_M 386, if any using the session key Skey_M assigned by the SP to merchant, thus creating $\text{Skey}_M(\text{RN}_{SP-M} * \text{Acknowledgement Data}_M)$. The merchant combines 388 the resulting cryptogram with the transaction identification number
10 TID_{SP-M} 390 assigned by the SP, and the plain text PLAIN TEXT_M (from 392), if any. This forms the data portion of the merchant's acknowledgement message, $\text{TID}_{SP-M} * \text{PLAIN TEXT}_M * \text{Skey}_M(\text{RN}_{SP-M} * \text{Acknowledgement Data}_M)$. This data portion is further combined
15 422 with the acknowledgement message received from the EC to form the data portion of the combined acknowledgement message for the SP, $\{[\text{TID}_{SP-EC} * \text{PLAIN TEXT}_{EC} * \text{Skey}_{EC}(\text{Acknowledgement Data}_{EC}) * \text{DS}_{EC-Private-Key}] * [\text{TID}_{SP-M} * \text{PLAIN TEXT}_M * \text{Skey}_M(\text{Acknowledgement Data}_M)]\}$. The merchant feeds the data portion of the combined acknowledgement message for the SP into a one-way hash algorithm to generate
20 the message digest MD_M . The resulting MD_M is then digitally signed by the merchant using the merchant's private key 428 to generate $\text{DS}_{M-Private-Key}$ 426. The $\text{DS}_{M-Private-Key}$ is combined
430 with the data portion of the message (from 422) to form the final combined acknowledgement message of the EC and the merchant designated for the SP, $\ll\{[\text{TID}_{SP-EC} * \text{PLAIN TEXT}_{EC} * \text{Skey}_{EC}(\text{Acknowledgement Data}_{EC}) * \text{DS}_{EC-Private-Key}] * [\text{TID}_{SP-M} * \text{PLAIN TEXT}_M * \text{Skey}_M(\text{Acknowledgement Data}_M)]\} \gg * \text{DS}_{M-Private-Key}$. This message is then sent to the
25 SP. Figure 11 depicts the final format of the transaction acknowledgement message.

TID_{SP-M} is the transaction identification number assigned by the SP to the merchant
30 (from 218) and TID_{SP-EC} is the transaction identification number assigned by the SP to the EC (from 194). Upon receiving the transaction acknowledgement message, the SP checks 432 the two transaction identification numbers, TID_{SP-M} and TID_{SP-EC} , sent by the EC and the merchant and makes sure they are valid. When either TID_{SP-M} or TID_{SP-EC} is found invalid,
35 then the message is rejected 434. If the transaction identification numbers are both valid, then the SP proceeds to separate the $\text{DS}_{M-Private-Key}$ from the combined acknowledgement

1 message and feeds the data portion of the combined acknowledgement message $\ll\{[TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * Skey_{EC}(Acknowledgement Data_{EC})] * DS_{EC-Private-Key}\} * [TID_{SP-M} * PLAIN TEXT_M * Skey_M(Acknowledgement Data_M)]\gg$ into a one-way hash algorithm to calculate the
 5 message digest MD^M of this message. The SP separates the data portion of the message, $TID_{SP-M}, PLAIN TEXT_M, CRYPTO_M, DS_{M-Private-Key}$, $(TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * CRYPTO_{EC}) * DS_{EC-Private-Key}$. The SP decrypts 436 the $DS_{M-Private-Key}$ using the merchant's public key PK_M and compares the recovered message digest MD_M 432 with the
 10 message digest just calculated MD^M 436. If MD^M and MD_M are not equal, then the message has been corrupted and is rejected 440. If MD^M and MD_M match, then the SP decrypts 442 the encrypted portion of the merchant's acknowledgement message using the session key $Skey_M$ (from 210) that it assigned to the merchant during the KE phase and
 15 recovers the acknowledgement data contained within it.

The SP separates 444 the $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ from the EC's acknowledgement message and feeds the data portion of the EC's acknowledgement message, $TID_{SP-EC} * PLAIN TEXT_{EC} * CRYPTO_{EC}$, into a one-way hash algorithm to calculate the message digest MD^E
 20 of this message. The SP separates the data portion of the EC's acknowledgement message, $TID_{SP-EC}, PLAIN TEXT_{EC}, CRYPTO_{EC}, DS_{EC-Private-Key}$. The SP decrypts 446 the $DS_{EC-Private-Key}$ using the EC's public key PK_{EC} and compares 448 the recovered MD_{EC} with the message digest just calculated MD^E 444. If the message digests are not equal, then the message has
 25 been corrupted and is rejected 450. If MD^E and MD_{EC} match, then the SP decrypts 452 the encrypted portion of the message using the session key $Skey_{EC}$ (from 186) that it assigned to the EC during the KE phase and recovers the acknowledgement data contained within it. This completes the processing of the transaction phase of the transaction 454.

30 Throughout the transaction, in a preferred embodiment, the EC works with interface software provided by Internet browser software such as the Microsoft Explorer or Netscape Navigator. In a typical session, the cardholder points his browser to the merchant's URL and orders goods or services from the merchant. At the time of payment, the browser will invoke
 35 the EC interface software, which can be built into the browser or included as a plug-in or add-on software component, and allow the transaction to proceed. The cardholder can point his

1 browser to the URL of any SP member.

5 The two-phased transaction described in figure 6A-6Q above is just a specific case of applying the two-phased key-exchange-transaction model. In the two-phased transaction described in figures 6A-6Q, the number of parties involved in the transaction is three: the EC, the merchant and the SP. The two-phased key-exchange-transaction model is similarly applicable to cases where the number of parties involved varies from two to many. In a transaction that involves more than three parties, there is only one party that plays the role of the SP. All other parties use the public key of the selected SP to perform the initial key exchange and use session keys and transaction Ids assigned by the SP to carry out the transaction.

15 The two-phased key-exchange-transaction model is applicable to organization schemes wherein: (1) the participants can be arranged with possible routers in series with the service provider; or (2) the participants can be arranged with possible routers in a hierarchical organization. These additional organization schemes may involve routers, which route messages to the next level. A level of a hierarchy may be composed of any number of participants and/or routers. The next level is the next participant or router that is next in the sequence or hierarchy. In a hierarchical organization scheme, the next level includes all possible next participants and routers. For the hierarchical organization scheme, the SP establishes the criterion for determining the next participant or router to which a message is sent.

25 A router is a gateway/conduit, which collects the messages from a previous level and performs some processing on the messages according to an SP's requirements such as combining them, and then forwards the messages to the SP. Each participant need only form his own message (data and digital signature) and send it to the next level. A participant combines all the messages he receives with his own message and digitally signs the combined message before sending it to next level. In the hierarchical organization's simplest form, there is only one message router, which collects messages from all the other participants and sends the combined message to the SP.

35 In the series organization, an originator of a transaction is in series with routers and/or

1 participants who in turn are in series with a service a service provider 60. In the preferred
embodiment of the invention, each element shown in figure 12 is a participant. In an
alternative embodiment of the invention, any intermediate element between the originator and
5 the SP can be a router.

An originator conducts a transaction with participants 1100, 1120, 1140 and 1160 and a
service provider that have been arranged in series as shown in Figure 12. This is similar to
the three-party scenario described in figures 6A-6Q except for the fact that now there is more
10 parties involved. Note participants 3,4,5,6 ... $n-2$ that have been arranged in series 1180.
Each of the participants prepares his own message, incorporates it with the message he
receives from a prior participant, if any, appends a digital signature with the message, and
then sends it to the next participant in the line. The combined message is eventually sent to
15 the SP and the SP forms the response message accordingly and sends it back through the
same path the original request message has traveled.

Figure 13 shows elements arranged in a hierarchical organization scheme, where each
element, $X_{l,l}$ to $X_{l,n}$ ($n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$) 1200, is a participant of the transaction and not a
20 message router, and each element, $X_{j,k}$ ($j = 2, 3, 4, \dots; k = 1, 2, 3, \dots m; m$ is a variable of type
 n ; m may be a different value for different levels of a hierarchy) 1210, can either be a
participant or a router. The upward pointing bold arrow represents sending a request message
25 1220. The downward pointing arrow represents sending a response message 1230.

Each participant collects messages from a number of participants he is responsible for
and, after combining the messages with his own and forming a new message, sends the new
message to the next level. A hierarchical organization scheme may include only one
30 participant to as many as is required (The most regressive case of the hierarchical scheme is
one participant and one service provider). Eventually, at the last element before the service
provider, $X_{\sigma,1}$ where σ is of type n , all messages are combined into one message 1240, which
is then sent to the SP 60. Again, the SP forms the response message and sends it back
35 through the same route.

In the case when the SP is not directing the transaction, the members are conducting the
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1 transaction among themselves using the session key generated by the SP. A transaction can
occur between two or more members. When there are more than two members involved in
the transaction, the messages can flow from member to member in any order. A member
5 sends a transaction request message and receives a transaction response message. A member
does not necessarily have to receive a transaction response message from the same member
that he sent the transaction request message. For example, three members in a transaction can
be organized in a ring and send messages around the ring. A first member can send a
10 transaction request message to a second member who in turn sends a transaction request
message and a transaction response message to third member. The third member sends a
transaction request message and a transaction response message to the first member, and the
first member sends a transaction response message to a second member. A member receiving
15 a transaction request message creates a transaction response message, which eventually will
be sent to the member who sent the transaction request message.

During the key exchange phase, the SP obtains the public keys of all the transaction
participating members. The SP sends to each participating member, the other members'
20 public keys prior to the participating members conducting a transaction among them. The
transaction request messages and the transaction response message include plain text, if any, a
cryptogram, and a digital signature of the sending party.

In the case when the SP needs to act as the surrogate-certificate for the EC and/or the
merchant in order to deal with a certificate-based external system, the SP shields the EC
25 and/or the merchant from the operation of the external interface. The SP only returns to the
EC and/or the merchant, the information needed to complete the transaction with the EC
and/or the merchant.

30 While there have been described herein what are considered to be preferred and
exemplary embodiments of the present invention, other modifications of the invention shall
be apparent to those with ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, it is desired to be secured in the
appended claims all such modifications and extensions as fall within the true spirit and
35 scope of the invention. The invention is to be construed as including all embodiments thereof
that fall within the scope of the appended claims and the invention should only be limited by

1 the appended claims below. In addition, one with ordinary skill in the art will readily
appreciate that other applications may be substituted for those set forth herein without
departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

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